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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/677,802	10/02/2000	Yukiko Inoue	M2047-6	3619
7278	7590	02/22/2005	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			PHILIPPE, GIMS S	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2613		

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/677,802	INOUE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Gims S Philippe	2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,8-11,13-15 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1,2,5,6,10,11,14 and 15 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 4,8,9,13 and 17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 4, 9, 13, and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4, 8-9, 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai (US Patent no. 5642239) in view of Shahraray (US Patent no. 6055025).

Regarding claims 4, 13, and 17, Nagai discloses a method and apparatus for detecting a scene change in a compressed moving picture comprising a scene change judging portion for judging a scene change (See Nagai col. 7, lines 49-67).

It is noted that Nagai is silent about retrieving scene changes that exist at a start and an end point of a specified interval among scene changes detected by the scene change judging portion.

Shahraray discloses a method and apparatus for detecting scene change including the step of retrieving scene changes that exist at a start and an end point of a specified

interval among scene changes detected by the scene change judging portion (See Sahraray col. 8, lines 49-56).

Therefore, it is considered obvious that one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would recognize the advantage of modifying Nagai's scene change detection method by incorporating Sahraray' step of retrieving scene changes that exist at a start and an end point of a specified interval among scene changes detected by the scene change judging portion. The motivation for performing such modification is to be able to detect and reject false scene change usually from flash photography.

As per claim 8, most of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the above rejection of claim 4. In addition, Nagai further provides using a threshold as a criterion on the basis of a maximum quantity variation in order to determine a scene change (See Nagai col. 7, lines 14-29).

As per claim 9, Nagai discloses a method for detecting a scene change in a compressed moving picture comprising inputting a compressed moving picture in which field structure images and frame structure images exist together, and detecting a scene change in the inputted compressed moving picture (See fig. 8, and col. 7, lines 30-54). Also note that Nagai further discloses using frame and field structure together in col. 8, lines 38-67.

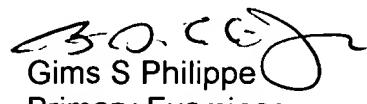
The examiner would also remind the applicant that the limitations of claim 9 are considered broad, therefore, the sections cited in Nagai do meet the claimed limitations.

4. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10-11, 14, 15 allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gims S Philippe whose telephone number is (703) 305-1107. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-7:00) Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris S Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Gims S Philippe
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613

GSP

February 21, 2005